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LETTER DATED 4 MAY 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

We have received distressing information, from the Presidency of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, concerning renewed and intensive attacks by Serbian and Montenegrin forces against the civilian population of Zepa. Attached to this letter is a letter dated today, from my President, regarding these attacks.

These attacks have been carried out with the explicit intention of killing Zepa's civilians and bringing to a full catastrophe the town's humanitarian situation. Along with the full-scale offensive, Serbian and Montenegrin forces have prevented all humanitarian aid from reaching the besieged civilians.

Upon instructions from the Presidency of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, acting under paragraph 1 of Article 35 of the Charter of the United Nations, in the light of the imminent humanitarian catastrophe facing Zepa's civilian population, we hereby request an emergency meeting of the Security Council.

May I ask for your kind assistance in circulating this letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Muhamed SACIRBEY
Ambassador and Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 4 May 1993 from the President of the Presidency of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina addressed to the President of the Security Council

The general attack of the Serbian paramilitary forces on the free area of Žepa, already besieged for more than a year, started on 4 May 1993 at 0500 hours.

Both heavy artillery and tanks are being used. The Chetniks' command was captured and it reads: "To burn down Žepa, to kill all alive, and regardless of losses, take over Žepa."

There are about 40,000 people in Žepa, out of which 35,000 refugees, among them 8,000 children. After four hours' attack, there are tens of dead and wounded. Those capable are trying to escape. Nobody is helping the sick and wounded. Literally, everything is on fire.

We suggest that the Security Council declare the free territory of Žepa as a United Nations protected area and send a company of blue helmets to defend this area and the civilian population there.

We kindly ask for the urgent decision to prevent mass killing of the suffering people of Žepa.

President
of the Presidency
of the Republic of Bosnia
and Herzegovina

(Signed) Alija IZETBEGOVIC